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**WHEN THE FORESTS ARE EXHAUSTED.**



CHRISTMAS  
TREE  
WHEN THE  
FORESTS  
ARE  
EXHAUSTED



CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FUTURE VIEW OF THE EDES BRIDGE AT ST. LOUIS  
with the disappearance of the forests will come the drying up of our rivers  
and the sterilizing of our soil.—Chicago Tribune.

## TO PRESERVE THE NATION'S HERITAGE.

## VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE APPALACHIAN FOREST PROJECT.

Scientific Testimony Agrees that the Prosperity of the Eastern States and the Welfare of the Whole Nation Demands Speedy Action by Congress and Cooperation by the Various States.—The Timber Supply; the Water Power; the Maintenance of Navigation; the Saving of Health and Pleasure Resorts, and the Continued Existence of Many Cities Depends Upon it.—The Fate of Former Empires is our Warning.

## WHAT THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION MUST DO

AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND PUBLIC RESERVATIONS  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
HENRY A. BARKER, PROVIDENCE  
1908



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# American Civic Association

"For a Better and More Beautiful America"

Office of the Secretary, North American Building, Philadelphia

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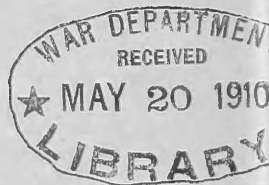
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THIS DEPARTMENT PAMPHLET ISSUED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
HENRY A. BAKER, DEPT. VICE-PRESIDENT  
CHAIRMAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APPALACHIAN CAMPAIGN.  
32 CUSTOM HOUSE STREET, PROVIDENCE.

FEBRUARY, 1908

By transfer

JUL 2 1915



# THE DESTINIES OF MANY STATES

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THE AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION, believing that most of its efforts toward the making of a *Better and More Beautiful America*, must of necessity be frustrated, at least so far as the Eastern half of the country is concerned, unless a *Great Devastating Influence* is checked, again submits a few of the more important considerations which affect in an amazing degree the destinies of nine or ten Southern States, several Central States, and five Northern ones, and in a very substantial way, menace the prosperity of the whole country.

A bill now before Congress (February, 1908) calls for the establishment of two National Forest Areas, and a preliminary appropriation of Five Million Dollars to be expended among the mountains of the South and of New England to check a loss that already amounts to hundreds of millions a year. The need of immediate action is pressing. Unless it is speedily taken, the destruction of the mountain-side forests will bring disasters complete and overwhelming.

## PRESERVATION OF RIVERS.

Practically all of the great rivers south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rise in a limited area among the high peaks of the Appalachians. In New England, the Connecticut, the Merrimac, the Saco and the Androscoggin rise in the White Mountains. The forest cover at the headwaters is a vital necessity to regulate these streams, and

**Once Destroyed, the Steeper Slopes never can be Reforested.**

While the droughts have been growing more severe with the extension of the destructive cuttings, the freshets have been increasing in violence, and a single flood frequently does damage far greater in cost than the entire expense of providing both reservations.

## A FUTURE DESERT.

Unquestionably, absolute desolation throughout great areas will be the ultimate result if the process of "land skinning" is allowed to continue. This

begins with the unregulated axe; then comes the forest fire; then the unrestrained rush of the floods and the washing away of the soil from steep mountain sides to overwhelm and to drown out the fertile valleys. The navigable streams are clogged; the water power is ruined; the storage reservoirs are filled with mud; the harbors are choked with debris. It does not take vast geologic ages to accomplish utter ruin. It will be but a brief span of human history before irreparable damage is wrought unless the government responds to the call for relief. A process has been set in motion which, unless checked in time, all the strength of the nation will be powerless to resist.

## DESOLATING THE LAND.

Professor Shaler told us nearly a dozen years ago that every year a hundred square miles of Eastern country was being rendered hopelessly desolate through man's lamentable carelessness. The process is going on three times as rapidly nowadays. Within a few years an area nearly equal to that of the State of Massachusetts has been destroyed. Man's puny strength and destructive genius could not accomplish all this deso-

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**DELAY BY THE GOVERNMENT MEANS DAMAGE UNSPEAKABLE**

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lation unassisted. But it is only needed for him to make a beginning upon the steeper slopes of the Appalachians. Nature says to the man with the axe, "You kill the forest and we do the rest."

#### **DESTRUCTION OF EMPIRES.**

It is thus that annihilation has come upon some of the greatest empires and richest domains that the world has ever seen.

Once upon a time, before the mountain forests of Lebanon were destroyed, Palestine supported in much affluence a population of 10,000,000. The mountains have long been denuded. Forbidding slopes, barren and ugly, rear their weird forms sharply above dismal and desolate valleys. Scarcely 400,000 people remain in all the region, and most of these are in hopeless and abject poverty. The valley of Babylon, where once stood the metropolis of the world, is abandoned and forlorn. Desert wastes cover the sites of Carthage and Tyre and Sidon, yet bountiful nature once provided for these places its richest gifts of fertility and abundance. Antioch is gone, and all Syria is a scene of irreparable ruin. "The destruction of her forests, followed by the disappearance of her soil and the decay of her industries," foreshadowed the inevitable result. "Man destroyed the forests, and lands which once flowed with milk and honey were transformed into deserts." One-third of China, it is said, has been rendered uninhabitable, and the ruined hills of Southern Italy will no longer support their population. Is such a mournful history of so-called civilization—that is really but a record of devastation and destruction—to be repeated in America?

#### **LITTLE DISASTERS EXCITE US.**

Unlike a war or an earthquake or a pestilence, this forest destruction will bring ruin not to be measured by one decade, or by a single century.

We shudder at the horrors of war; the whole nation is thrilled to the utmost by the story of a great earthquake; a quick response goes out to aid the stricken city when San Francisco is swept by fire. Yet San Francisco, like Chicago and like Boston, within a shorter time than it takes to awaken Congress to the vastly greater calamity that is impending, arises from her ashes finer and stronger than ever before. If that great conflagration could have been foreseen and prevented, would any so-called "economy" have stood for one moment in the way?

How quickly our patriotic people would rush to the nation's aid, and what millions would be laid upon the nation's defense if a hostile army were crossing our frontier. A Congress that refused to act because it couldn't find anything to fit the case in the Constitution, or because it was trying for an "economical administration," would be buried in ridicule and disgrace.

#### **MUCH WORSE THAN WAR.**

Yet the devastation of war is but for a brief time, after all. There have been broad strips of smiling country laid waste by the invader even in our own land, and ruin for the time being seemed complete, yet another generation comes upon the scene and those of us who belong to it look in vain for the scars that were inflicted.

It is different when national resources instead of artificial creations have been destroyed, and this destruction of the forest and the mountainside, the valleys and the rivers, means ruin of states instead of counties; ruin that will last a thousand years instead of a generation; ruin that will be complete and overwhelming; a calamity brought on by human ignorance and greed. It is a ruin clearly foreseen by those who have the knowledge to foresee; clearly preventable by human means, if we have the will to prevent. It is probably within the truth to say that a city like San Francisco might be destroyed every three or four months without bringing greater loss of the national wealth than is now going on all the time.

#### **"ALREADY FEEL THE PINCH."**

It may take several centuries to complete this disaster, and there will still be some oases, but we who are now living may not hope to escape some portion of the penalty that indifference brings. Already, as the Forest Service tells us, "we are beginning to feel the pinch."

#### **THE TIMBER FAMINE.**

We are rapidly nearing a timber famine and the end of the nation's supply of hardwood is already in sight. The principal remaining stock is growing among the highlands of the Appalachians, and when it is gone many of the nation's greatest industries will be obliterated.

#### **FAILURE OF NAVIGATION.**

We shall see the failure of navigation upon scores of rivers that are now very useful for transportation, and this will be accomplished by the freshets of spring-time; by the droughts of midsummer, and by the filling up of the channels with silt and debris from the denuded hills.

As Ex-Governor Pardee of California has said, "The rivers and harbors begin in the mountains." The navigable rivers of the South practically all have their rise in the Appalachians, and the four principal rivers that rise in the White Mountains are navigable in their lower reaches, yet the removal of the forests has so disturbed the laws of Nature that serious difficulty is being experienced by the season of low water, which is constantly lengthening.

#### **NO USE TO DIG OUT.**

"The government has expended \$30,000,000 to deepen these streams, and expects to spend \$26,000,000 more, but that investment will be rendered useless in a few years unless something is done to regulate the drainage." The forest is the one natural factor that equalizes the flow and with the forest supplemented by storage reservoir systems, the depth of many streams could be properly maintained. "Thirty-five per cent. of the Monongahela may be economically stored. That would almost eliminate flood damage at Pittsburgh and Wheeling and secure the coveted height of water to Cincinnati." This is impossible of accomplishment except by the maintenance of the watershed forests to equalize the flow and prevent the filling of both reservoirs and rivers with soil waste from the hillsides.

#### **MULTIPLIED MILLIONS WASTED.**

Instead of spending "multiplied millions" to dig out the rivers and the harbors, would it not be better policy for an "economical Congress" to attack the root



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## OVERWHELMING DISASTERS BECOME CERTAIN

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of the difficulty, and remove the chief cause of trouble?

"The present process involves dredging, and more dredging, until Kingdom Come," testifies Mr. Leighton of the U. S. Geological Survey. "It is cheaper to keep soil out of the top than to dig it out of the bottom, and a private corporation that handled such a situation in the manner that the government does, would be a fit candidate for a receivership."

### FLOOD DISASTERS TO CITIES.

The floods of 1907, which caused a damage of \$9,900,000 at Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and Louisville, were but a hint of future disasters to many cities. These freshets are forever menacing all the riverside towns along the Ohio and Mississippi, as well as those on the rivers within the Appalachian region, and if the menace continues to increase, it will scarcely be possible to maintain cities except on the hilltops. Already the flood damage in the United States exceeds \$100,000,000 per year. "With our water controlled and utilized, this sum might be saved, and four-fold greater value produced."

### MANUFACTURES THREATENED.

Prof. Shaler once remarked "that the future of manufactures in our country will depend upon water power transmitted by electricity." Nearly every drop of water that can turn a wheel in the South comes from the mountains. Upon the principal streams of the Southern Appalachian Region, there is nearly 5,000,000 horse power for development. If one horse power is worth \$20 per year, which is the commonly estimated rate, it will be seen what a mighty factor are the mountain brooks for the future industrial development of this country in furnishing the possibility for vast development in manufacturing, in lighting and in transportation. It is estimated that the capital invested in the manufacturing enterprises which utilize about two-thirds of the power of the four principal rivers flowing from the White Mountains amounts to \$400,000,000. The industries dependent upon the power of these rivers in five New England states and nine or ten Southern ones certainly produce an annual output of nearly or quite half a billion dollars, but the floods of springtime and the ever-increasing severity of the midsummer droughts offer a constant menace to their prosperity, and instead of the vast future development that would otherwise be looked for, it is feared that decay will set in and that the diminished streams of summer will barely trickle past a few abandoned wheels that have managed to escape the springtime freshets.

### WITHOUT FORESTS STORAGE RESERVOIRS ARE FUTILE.

The building of Storage Reservoirs to take the place of the natural storage of the forest will be quite futile. As Secretary Wilson's report sets forth, "Any reservoir system in the Southern Appalachians is foredoomed to failure unless the watersheds which feed it are kept under forest." Examples of reservoirs completely filled are on almost every stream. If the silt can be "sluiced" out

of the highest reservoir it gathers in the next below, and if perchance it passes the last reservoir, it is free for deposit in the navigable reaches of the streams, whence its removal may only be by a steam dredge at the expense of the government. Yet if these storage reservoirs could be maintained, not only manufactures, but inland navigation, would be possible on thousands of miles of rivers.

### HARBORS AND SOIL WASTE.

Vast sums are spent each year in raising the levees and digging out the channels of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and upon the harbors of the Gulf and Ocean Coast. We are told that a billion tons of the most fertile top soil of the land goes off each year into the sea, and that it is worth a billion dollars. That is as much as it costs each year to run the government of the United States. It is said to be twice the value of all the lumber products of the country, and surely is a tremendous lot more than the lumber products will be worth if present conditions continue.

### HIGHER RENTS FOR EVERYBODY.

The waste of the forest has not only raised the price of lumber, but by increasing the demand for substitutes, has brought about a general raising of the price of other building materials from 25 to 75 per cent. within six or seven years, and that means that a burdensome tax is already being levied upon every property owner and rent payer in the United States.

### ABANDONMENT OF FARMS.

Throughout both sections, thousands of acres of once cleared land have been abandoned, and a smaller area is now farmed than fifty years ago. In the South the farms move higher and higher up the mountainsides, with only a brief existence between the beginning and the end of their usefulness, from the first cutting of the forest to the hopeless erosion and final abandonment of the land. In the White Mountain Region, the farmer has abandoned the country almost entirely, except along the meadow lands that border the streams, and, as in the Southern section, vast areas of the country is much better adapted for the raising of trees than for agriculture.\*

### SCENERY A COMMERCIAL ASSET.

Considered commercially, as a public asset from the tourist's viewpoint alone, the White Mountains are estimated to be worth \$8,000,000 a year. This money value, which imperfectly measures the real value to the people who spend the money, is four times as much as the cost of the proposed Northern reservation.

Crawford Notch, and the Profile, and Tuckerman's Ravine are world famous. A very large proportion of the population of the United States, especially that part living in the greatest cities, is within a few hours' ride of these once splendid scenes that are now rapidly being made hideous. The region is well supplied with fine hotels and admirable roads, and multitudes of campers and cottagers annually flock to the invigorating White Hills. Asheville, the largest town in Western

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\* See map of Southern Appalachian Region, page 10

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IT IS FULL TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO WAKE UP

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## NATIONAL RUIN WILL FOLLOW INDIFFERENCE

North Carolina, owes its prosperity to the thousands of tourists who go for recreation, and to the thousands of invalids who are seeking health in the pure air of the beautiful "Sapphire Country." But with the destruction of the scenery, the mountain hotels must close their doors and summer homes must be abandoned.

Hundreds of thousands of people in all succeeding ages should be able to find vigor and inspiration among these magnificent mountains, and we of this generation must consider ourselves custodians of a great and God-given legacy for millions yet unborn.

### THE PARTING OF THE WAYS.

"We have at last reached the forks of the road," declares President Roosevelt, "and the whole future of the nation is directly at stake in the momentous decision which is now forced upon us."

### WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE.

The East is making a desert of its gardens, but the West is making gardens of its deserts. The wiser policy in the states beyond the Mississippi has caused the setting aside of nearly 235,000 square miles of forest-covered mountains, and in these same states has undertaken reclamation work by irrigation that is costing the government more than \$40,000,000 to supplement private work, upon which \$100,000,000 has already been expended.

It is easy to see that the centre of population may be shifted a thousand miles or more toward the setting sun. Yet the West would hardly profit by the destruction of the East any more than the East today would be benefited if the Western States were to be wiped off the map. Nor is it quite a "square deal" that such absurd economy be practiced in the richest and most populous section of our country, for, while the Western States and Territories, with a population of 10,447,368 have nearly a quarter of a million square miles of national forests, the rest of the States with a population of 73,494,112, have none.

The states of the Northeast and the Southeast together are now asking for government control over 7800 square miles to avert grave calamities. Is this unreasonable? Is it unreasonable for seven-eighths of the population to ask for an area one-thirtieth as great as the other one-eighth of the people enjoy?

### A NOTABLE REPORT.

The Report of the Secretary of Agriculture made to Congress under date of December 11, 1907, copies of which may be obtained by application made to the Forest Service, sets forth very clearly and very definitely the policy that must be

pursued. It contains suggestions of the ways in which the states and the nation must take up the mighty problem, that is vital to the public welfare. It affords food for thought for every citizen who cares either for his own interest or for the continued welfare of his country, and deals with a subject of vital importance, compared with which all the other discussions and enterprises of the government seem trivial and commonplace.

### NOT FOR ORNAMENT, BUT PRESERVATION.

The idea that this National Forest movement is merely a "Scheme for Investment in National Scenery" is one of the most pernicious bits of misinformation that ever flitted through Congress. The forests must be administered for their fullest and most practical uses. The proposition is merely for preserving the land in which we live against the ruin and depredation that is surely coming otherwise.

### THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ON TRIAL.

What possible reason can there be for any delay? Immediate relief is called for. The waste and the drain upon resources, the damage constantly going on, amounts to millions of dollars a day. Does Congress fail to understand the necessity? It is impossible to believe that our legislators are so uninformed and indifferent to the nation's welfare.

Is there any question about the facts? None has been suggested.

Does anyone disapprove of these Eastern Forests? If so, why is he not heard from?

### WHY THIS DELAY?

Is there any serious objection to this particular bill? If so, why is not a substitute suggested? "No nation can outlive its natural resources," and since this is so, their preservation is an issue of greater magnitude than any that deals with man-made things like the Tariff, the Rate Bill, or even the Constitution itself. If the government can neglect a grave responsibility like the consideration of this vital question upon which its very existence depends, it must fall or be brushed aside by an overwhelming wave of enlightened public opinion. The powers that be are now on trial. The handling of this forest question will furnish proof whether they are fit to govern. If they prove their unfitness, there will come a new alignment of parties upon new issues, and every intelligent person must desert the playing of peanut politics for the real work of national preservation and development. In this work, intelligent and patriotic people of the North and the South will be solidly united. The call to arms is not the only one that demands a patriotic duty for the saving of his country, his home and his livelihood.

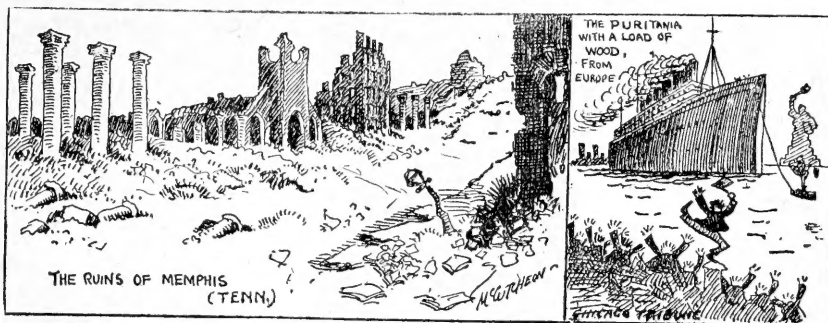
H. A. B.

### WHAT MUST BE DONE.

Every friend of the forest must come to the front. Every member of this association is urged to write without delay to his representatives in Congress. Every society of thoughtful men and women with which you are connected should take action and send resolutions and telegrams to Washington. We ask you to interest the newspapers of your district, and we will furnish them whatever facts are desired for news matter and editorials.

### THERE IS NO TIME TO DELAY.





WITHOUT NATIONAL FORESTS

## EASTERN FORESTS THE ONLY SALVATION

**Hardwood Supply Rapidly Dis-  
appearing from the Continent**

### DISASTER THREATENS NATION

**U. S. Forest Service Asserts in Striking Bul-  
letin that Vast Industries will be Wiped  
Out Unless Congress Acts—Timber Famine  
Certain Unless Government Controls the  
Appalachians**

Often during the campaign for National Forests in the White Mountains and Southern Appalachians, questions like these have been asked:

"Why is this a National affair?"

"What interest has the rest of the country in these mountain reservations in the East?"

"Why don't the states themselves attend to their own local affairs instead of putting them all up to the indulgent government?"

"What reason has Ohio or Indiana to get up any great enthusiasm for saving trees in North Carolina?"

It is generally answered that whatever works for the prosperity of one part of

our common country promotes the general good. One definite illustration is that the price of every yard of cotton cloth sold in America is dependent on the maintenance of water power in the two great centres of cotton manufacture, and that the water power of the principal rivers of the North and of the South can only be provided by the maintenance of forests on the steep slopes of the Appalachian Range. This is but one of the numerous examples.

#### AN ALARMING BULLETIN.

The United States Forest Service has furnished convincing answers to such questions, however, in an interesting, but alarming, bulletin recently written by Wm. L. Hall of that Department and issued under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture. This little pamphlet, entitled "The Waning Hardwood Supply," sets forth that more than half of the country's remaining stock of hardwood exists within a comparatively limited area among the highlands of the East; that through unregulated and reckless destruction it is rapidly disappearing, and that when it is gone, which at the present rate of cutting, will be within the next fifteen years, many of the country's greatest industries will be practically wiped out. Particularly is this the case with many leading manufactures of the Central States, and among those enumerated by Mr. Hall are carriage and wagon building, furniture and interior finishing, agricultural implements, cooperage and musical instruments. Railroad building will suffer, for no satisfactory substitute for wooden ties has yet been found, though many have been suggested and tried.

#### DESTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIES.

When prohibitive prices or an entire lack of supply have compelled the giving up of the present material, it is evident that every citizen will pay an indirect but oppressive tax for the loss of one of the greatest of national assets. "How intensely the whole country would feel the loss," says the report, "can scarcely be realized. A general failure in crops may affect industrial conditions for a few years—a failure in the hardwood supply would be a blight upon our industries for more than a generation."

#### "PAYING THE PIPER."

Even with the wisest management and

**NATION, STATE, AND PEOPLE MUST COOPERATE**

## ONLY ONE HOPE FOR HARDWOOD SUPPLY

immediate action by the government "the inevitable conclusion is that there are lean years ahead in the use of hardwood timber. There is sure to be a gap between the supply that exists and the supply that will have to be provided."

In the discussion of how to reduce the injury to the minimum, full recognition is given to the substitutes that are being employed; for instance, the growing use of metal and concrete—yet prominent as these materials have become, they seem not to have reduced the use of hardwood, which has been demanded for new uses "much faster than it has been replaced for any of the older ones."

### BEGINNING OF THE END.

The price has recently advanced from 25 to 65 per cent., and the lumbermen are pushing their way into places formerly considered inaccessible or offering lumber of many kinds formerly considered unfit. Yet the output is rapidly declining with the exhaustion of the forests. "Oak, which in 1899 furnished over one-half the entire output of hardwood lumber, fell off 36.5 per cent. Yellow poplar, which in 1899 was second among hardwoods, fell off 37.9 per cent. Elm, the greatest standard of slack cooperage, went down 50.8 per cent. Although almost all possible new woods have been pressed into use, there has still been a shrinkage in the total output of 15.3 per cent. The hardwood lumbermen are working up the remnants. The end is coming into sight."

### PENALTY IN CENTRAL STATES.

The supply in Indiana and Ohio, the original centre of production, is practically exhausted. Illinois and Michigan are rapidly losing theirs, and every one of the Lake States will show a very rapid decline from now on. The states of the Mississippi Valley have reached their maximum cut.

The shortage of raw material has already brought some of the expected results. The decline in the woodworking industries of Ohio between 1900 and 1905 was more than 57 per cent., and the rank of the industry fell from the fourth to the twentieth place. In Indiana, the timber-using industry fell from the third to the eighth place; the number of wage earners decreased 42.6 per cent., and the wages paid decreased 36.6 per cent.

In 1905 the 2482 furniture establishments in the United States, with a capital of \$153,000,000 and an annual product valued at \$170,000,000, reported the annual use of 580,000,000 feet of lumber, and without hardwood lumber they are helpless.

The 5143 establishments for vehicle manufacture with a capital of \$149,000,000 and a yearly product of \$155,000,000, are threatened with almost absolute annihilation.

### RENTS ARE RISING.

The increasing price of hardwood has

already increased the demand, and so produced a shortage and raised the price of all other building materials except cement. The increased cost of building in every part of the Union has brought consternation to the rent payer, as well as the property owner.

Softwood, it is said, is even now being used more than three times as fast as it is growing, but there will always be some softwood, thanks to the national forests already set aside in the far Western States. Not so with the hardwoods, which do not grow in useful quantities in the West—and the government, though it has set aside 150,000,000 acres west of the Missouri River, has not yet recognized the claims of a single foot of hardwood country for preservation!

### THE ONLY WAY.

There is only one way to relieve the situation. The government must with all possible speed acquire great areas in the Southern Appalachians and in the White Mountains of New England. The states must help and individual owners be taught better methods of treating their own holdings. Under scientific methods of control, the annual increase in forest production, which now averages not over ten cubic feet of wood to the acre, would in time be increased as it has in the government forests of Prussia and Saxony, eight or nine hundred per cent., though that would take half a century at least. At 40 cubic feet per year, the Appalachian Forest is capable of producing just about the annual crop that is now being demanded, but most of the Appalachian forest has been so damaged that it would be some time before it could average anything like this amount. "The longer the delay in putting this forest under control, the longer continued and more extreme will be the shortage."

### SITUATION MOST GRAVE.

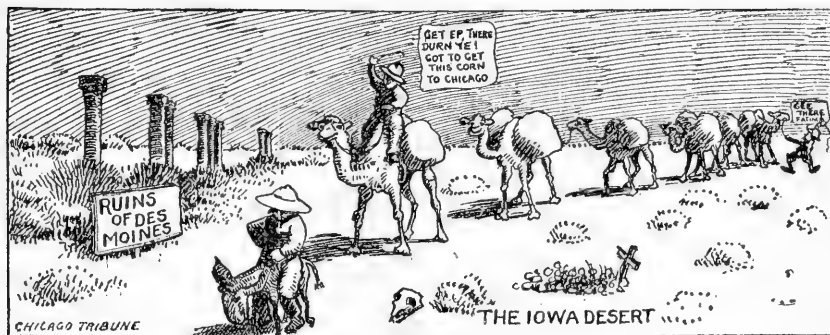
Figures ordinarily make dull reading, but the carefully compiled statistics of this notable pamphlet are worse than dull; they are absolutely depressing and alarming.

And yet this paper\* takes up but a single phase of the Eastern forest question. The failure of the hardwood supply is only an incident in the great work of destruction that man, in the name of civilization, is fastening upon this unhappy continent, but this is a definite disaster close at hand and affecting our own generation, and so, perhaps, will be taken to heart more readily than some other phases that deal with the preservation of the continent itself through the ages to come.

\*"The Waning Hardwood Supply and the Appalachian Forests." U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Circular 116. Issued Sept. 24, 1907. Written by Wm. L. Hall, Assistant Forester. "Approved: JAMES WILSON, Secretary of Agriculture."

## IS IT LEGAL TO SAVE THE NATION?

Is there a fear that the Constitution does not expressly provide the means of deliverance? If the general welfare clause means anything, it must admit guarding the heritage of all the generations. It would be a pretty impotent Government that could find no legal means of saving itself from desolation and destruction.



WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

This scene is not very different from the present aspect of Ancient Carthage, or of Babylon. Their permanent ruin was brought about by preventable processes that are being duplicated in our own land.

# WILL HISTORY HAVE A MERRY JEST?

**Public Indifference and Congressional Inertia Responsible**

**FALSE "ECONOMY" SPELLS RUIN**

**Nero Fiddled While Rome Burned—Americans Quarrel About the Tariff and Higher Education While National Resources Are Being Obliterated and Prosperity Sapped at its Fountain Head**

Perhaps someone thinks this is a joke. If it is one, it is also a ghastly prophecy that will come true unless we find a cure for national ignorance, indifference and neglect. A great calamity threatens vast areas of our fairest states—a calamity which will make some of them uninhabitable and bring to others staggering burdens. We are blithesome and merry while this is going on—busy and active as ants in an ant hill, and marvellously interested over little affairs that have been magnified to look big, while the very life of

the nation is being permanently sapped at the fountain head of national prosperity. Sometimes instead of being blithesome we take ourselves very seriously and fret and fume about the Tariff, and fuss over the "Higher Education," so that we have no time to bother with a tiresome subject like the obliteration of the land and resources of fifteen states.

NERO'S CARELESSNESS.

Nero fiddled while Rome burned, and he has been much criticised for his carelessness, but how much better are we behaving? We are pretty patriotic when we get sufficiently aroused, and quite excited while the band wagon is going by. We would respond gaily to the call to arms if we knew that a foreign invader was crossing our frontier. With such unintelligent patriotism, many empires and rich domains of former years have faded from the map of the world and are now buried beneath the sands of the desert. It was thus that Babylon and Tyre, and Sidon and Antioch, have perished—that one-third of China has become uninhabitable. But that sort of thing takes time. Perhaps most of us will be gone before the country begins to pay its severest penalty for forest devastation. So why should we care for the future of our Eastern States? Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die, and when we die, hooray for the overwhelming Deluge and the Municipal Policy of the great Nero!

COMPULSORY RACE SUICIDE.

But stop! Just as a humanitarian measure, we really ought to arrange for Compulsory Race Suicide, for since we allow the destruction of the Nation's Heritage (of which we are temporary custodians) to go on unchecked, there will be no way of feeding any future generations. We will not even allow one blade of grass to grow where the hayfield was before. "Why should we care for Posterity, anyhow?" asks Sir Boyle O'Roche. "What has Posterity ever done for us?" Well, what, indeed?

FOR CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE

NOT FOR NATIONAL BRIC-A-BRAC.

Some people tell us that the idea is quite extensively held in Washington that this plan for setting aside the White Mountains and the Southern Appalachians is simply a scheme for government investment in natural scenery. The idea is that we want to preserve the forests like ornamental bric-a-brac in a glass case, to be looked at rather than used. But others, who are scientific men, tell us why the Atlantic Coast line is sinking and why the springtime river freshets are yearly providing navigation in the lower streets of Louisville, and it is largely, it appears, because Congress must be economical.

THE ROAD TO RUIN.

If the Public continues indifferent and Congressional apathy results, why, then we are on the Road to Ruin.

When the forests are exhausted and the rivers have run dry; when Pittsburg has become only a tradition and Atlantic City has sunk beneath the encroaching sea; when the barren, ghastly Appalachians rear their scarred and ruined sides pitifully above the silent desert, shall History have it for a gruesome jest upon a nation that called itself "practical," that all this was allowed to come about in the name of Economy?

Shall it tell of a nation that chuckled with glee and puffed with pride at its own enterprise in the looting of a rich continent in record-breaking time, a continent the wealth of which was almost beyond the dreams of avarice—almost, but not quite?

Shall it tell of a people that lazily culled out the things easiest to ravage and then burned up and washed away the rest; and of its most vital assets, gathered but a single crop and then despoiled the land? A nation that could spend a billion dollars a year and yet was too poor to tax its people six cents apiece to check the destruction of fifteen states!

IN THE NAME OF ECONOMY.

If Public Indifference continues and Congress fails to grant relief, these things will come to pass, and Posterity, our "fair and righteous judge"—most of said posterity having moved in the meantime to some other part of the country—will revise our memory, while frantic efforts are being made to reforest some portions of the Appalachian Desert and the New England Sahara.

PRESENT PINCH MAY FURNISH CURE.

But, after all, the case is not hopeless, for with the signs on every hand, that are being translated by our prophets, we are beginning to sit up and take notice, just a bit. The fact that we are already paying 49 per cent. more for all our building materials than we did six or seven years ago gives a hint that Nature's Court will decree the penalty in time to afflict the present generation, unless we soon get busy. Whatever our opinion of Posterity, we certainly hate to pay the shot for our own carelessness.

H. A. B.

## THE GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY

These are the Men You  
Must Write To

### THE DUTY OF CITIZENSHIP

"The People will Always Get What They Really Want."—Speaker Cannon. In Order to Get What They Want and Need —They Must Tell Congress What It Is.

### "DO IT NOW"

This Means You, Kind Reader, and All Your Friends. The Address of all These Gentlemen is "Care of House of Representatives," Washington, D. C.

The Speaker has intimated that if the people show that they want this bill sufficiently, they will surely have it. The American Civic Association believes that the people do want the sources of their national prosperity preserved to them. They must, therefore, and without delay, indicate this fact by letters, by telegrams and by personal appeal to this "jury."

Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

James A. Tawney of Minnesota, Chairman of Appropriations Committee.

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, to which has been referred the Appalachian Forest Bill:

CHARLES F. SCOTT of Kansas, Chairman

Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa.  
Kittredge Haskins of Vermont.  
William Lorimer of Illinois.  
William W. Cooks of New York.  
Ralph D. Cole of Ohio.  
Ernest M. Pollard of Nebraska.  
Clarence C. Gilhams of Indiana.  
James C. McLaughlin of Michigan.  
Willis C. Hawley of Oregon.  
George M. Cook of Colorado.  
John W. Weeks of Massachusetts.  
John Lamb of Virginia.  
Asbury F. Lever of South Carolina.  
Jack Beall of Texas.  
William W. Rucker of Missouri.  
Augustus O. Stanley of Kentucky.  
J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama.  
William H. Andrews of New Mexico.

WRITE TO YOUR OWN CONGRESSMAN  
WITHOUT FAIL.

IS YOUR LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE HANDY ?

## TO PRESERVE THE NATION'S HERITAGE



### WHY THE APPALACHIAN FORESTS MUST BE SAVED



**Forester Pinchot and President Roosevelt**

**Sailing Down the Mississippi**

*—Collier's Weekly*

### MR. PINCHOT'S TESTIMONY

#### WHAT FOREST FAILURE MEANS

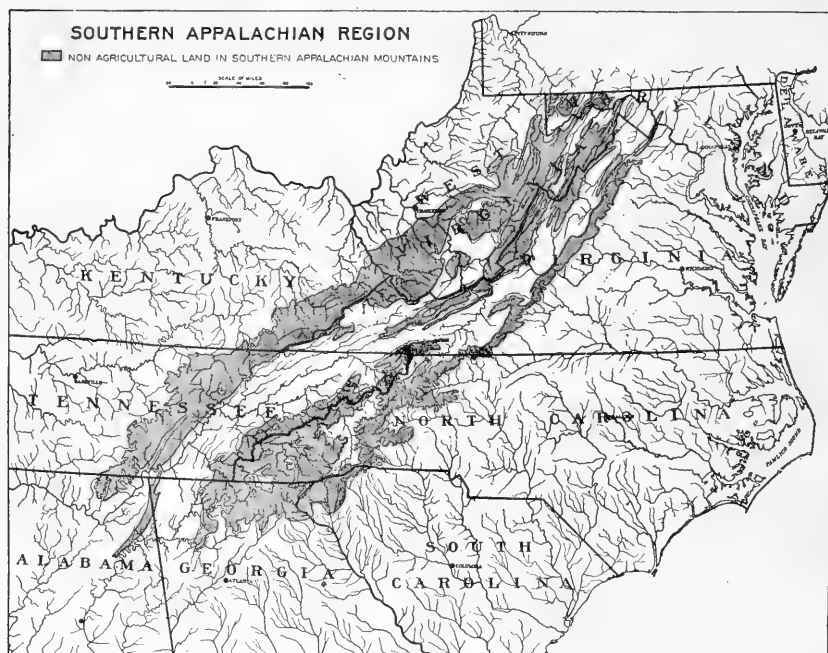
WHEN THE FORESTS FAIL, the lumber business, now the fourth greatest industry in the country, will of course disappear. Suffering among all building industries will immediately follow; mining will become vastly more expensive; then naturally the price of coal, iron and all other minerals will rise; by this the railroads will be directly affected and the cost of transportation and water power for lighting, manufacturing and transportation will immediately increase. All goods made from products of these mines will increase in price, which will hamper, not only agriculture, but the cost of production generally. In fact, when the forests fail, every man, woman and child in the United States, will feel the pinch. And through misuse the forests are failing rapidly.

GIFFORD PINCHOT,  
*Forester*

**"THE COUNTRY IS IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION"—PINCHOT**



## THE APPALACHIAN REGIONS LOOK SMALL ON THE MAP



The shaded area shows the "non-agricultural lands" among the mountains. Their forest covering regulates and controls all the great rivers of the South. Notice how the streams radiate from this water shed and flow toward the Atlantic, the Gulf, the Ohio and the Mississippi.

### HOW TO CONTROL THE RIVERS.

**Forests at Their Headwaters the Only Protection for Navigation and Water Power.**

#### NO FORESTS, NO WATERWAYS.

It is an absolute principle: no forests, no waterways. Without forests regulating the distribution of waters, rainfalls are at once carried to the sea, hurried sometimes, alas! across the country. After having devastated the neighboring fields, the rivers find themselves again, with little water and much sand; and with such rivers, how will you fill your canals? . . . The question is as clear as can be: Do you want to have navigable rivers or do you prefer to have torrents that will destroy your crops and never bear a boat? If you prefer the first, then mind your forests. We can tell you, for we know.

If the Mississippi is the "Father of Waters," the forest is the father of the Mississippi.

M. JUSSERAND,  
Ambassador from France.

#### THE EXPERIENCE OF FRANCE.

If we wait until forest and soil are gone before beginning a sound policy of handling these mountains, we shall invite the bitter experience of France, who at infinite pains and an expenditure of \$40,000,000 within her limited area is endeavoring to restore both soil and forest to her mountains after a course of

destruction such as ours at present. The streams of the Appalachians are of enormous value to the nation for water power and navigation. If the forests are removed from the mountains, this value will be reduced to a fraction, because the soil from the denuded watersheds will so rapidly fill reservoirs and channels that even the resources of the Government itself will be insufficient to keep them clear.

JAMES WILSON,  
Secretary of Agriculture.

#### UTILIZING THE WATERS.

Our inland waters are our greatest natural resource. The water flowing down our Western mountains far exceeds in value the fabulous wealth represented by all the metals and minerals lying between the Rockies and the Pacific.

Today, most of this resource is wasted. Each year, at least 1,600,000 horse power runs over Federal Government dams. Capitalized at three per cent., it represents an investment of \$1,066,000,000 now wholly wasted.

Further, uncontrolled water is a curse. Flood damage in the United States exceeds \$100,000,000 per year. With our water controlled and utilized, this sum might be saved and a five-fold greater value produced.

A plan for Federal action is essential, and it must infallibly include the conservation of forests upon the slopes on which rise important streams.

M. O. LEIGHTON,  
Chief Hydrographer U. S. Geological Survey.

**THEY ARE VAST IN THEIR INFLUENCE ON TWENTY-TWO STATES**

# REPORT OF SENATE COMMITTEE

Worthy of Attention by the  
House of Representatives

## JUST A SHORT SYNOPSIS

**Wise Public Policy—Inevitable Necessity,  
Essential to Agriculture, to Manufactur-  
ing, to Lumber Supply, to Recreation.  
A National Economy Saving Millions of  
Dollars Every Year.**

### THE APPALACHIAN FOREST RESERVE

Report of Senate Committee on Forest  
Reservations.

Presented to Congress April 11, 1906.

(Report No. 2537.)

The following argument, which shows the urgent need of the legislation proposed, was prepared by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, and is submitted herewith as embodying the views of the Committee:

First, the creation of these reserves is wise public policy.

Both the proposed reserve regions are chiefly natural forest land, more useful for the production of timber and water than anything else.

Second, the acquisition of these lands by the government will be good business policy.

Within a short term of years the National Forests will carry themselves. At the same time, their property value is increasing fully ten per cent. a year. This is in addition to their enormous indirect returns to the public welfare.

Third, the creation of these reserves is a necessary policy.

Sooner or later the inevitable consequences will force the government to step in. The question is not merely a local one. The loss of the forest is followed by that of the soil and by recurring floods, the devastation of property, the obstruction of navigable rivers. Alternate high and low water periods and government expenditures for dredging and harbor improvements follow. Yet deforestation is only in its first stage. Eventually, the stripped mountains will become so inimical to the public welfare that the government must reforest them.

Fourth, the creation of these reserves is in the interest of agriculture.

Erosion is so rapid that within five or ten years there is not enough fertile soil to bear crops. All the land that is truly agricultural is now exposed by denudation of the forests to severe floods. In the distant lowlands, the effect of forest destruction is felt in floods, which sweep

away bridges, dams and houses, and spread barren sand over acres of fertile fields.

Fifth, the creation of these reserves is important to manufactures.

The water power of these two reserves is of vast importance and will be more so with the development of electricity. The present course with the forests will entail a severe blow and lasting detriment to the entire country.

Sixth, in the lumber industry, the law of supply and demand does not guard the public interest.

Ownership by the national government of the reserves now proposed will help to maintain for the future a supply of lumber trees.

Protection from fire is practicable without great expense. Scientific forestry would gather an annual crop from the trees and conservative lumbering bring in a constant revenue without interfering with the preservation of the forest cover.

Seventh, the White Mountains and the Southern Appalachians are natural recreation grounds for a very large part of our population.

Over 60,000,000 people are within twenty-four hours of the Southern Appalachians and the White Mountains have long held a foremost place as a summer resort. These regions should be guarded and handed down to the generations which follow.

### A NATIONAL RATHER THAN A LOCAL OR STATE QUESTION.

The interests affected are interstate. The evils which the reserves will check fall most heavily upon distant communities and upon the national government. The government puts into the building of levees and the improvement of rivers and harbors many million dollars annually. The reserves constitute a far more economical expenditure for the same purpose.

A state within which these areas lie cannot reserve them for the benefit of other states. It is impossible for states which suffer from conditions outside their own territory to remedy them by their own action. The benefits will be national and the expense should be borne by the Nation.

(In accordance with the recommendations of the report from which these extracts are taken, the Senate unanimously passed the bill, which was subsequently approved by the House Committee on Agriculture, but was never acted upon by the House.)

"Moses, in his journey toward the Promised Land, came to the very border, only to perish there. Such was the fate of this bill in the 59th Congress."

Why should there be further delay? If there is any quibble about any of the terms of the bill, let the Committee propose a better one, but do it now.

It is a pretty far-fetched objection that the Constitution can not provide any means of deliverance.

**A GREAT NATIONAL QUESTION, SAYS THE SENATE COMMITTEE**

# Typical Resolutions

The following comprehensive Resolutions, recently adopted by the League of Improvement Societies in Rhode Island, furnish suggestions for many special communications from various classes of citizens. Nearly every interest in the country is in some manner affected.

**WHEREAS**, a bill for Government to acquire National Forests in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain regions failed to pass the United States House of Representatives during the Fifty-ninth Congress, although it had previously passed the Senate without dissent and had been unanimously approved by the House Committee on Agriculture and repeatedly urged by the President and by scores of national, state and local organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Government primarily exists and the constitution is framed with the express purpose to secure united action wherever the individual powers of separate states would be inadequate or powerless to promote the general welfare or to protect the resources of their people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of Agriculture on December 11, 1907, presented a report to Congress demonstrating after extensive investigation made by the most competent national authorities, that there exists a situation fraught with the gravest danger to national prosperity and demanding immediate understanding and action by the government as well as by the States and by the people; and

**WHEREAS**, facts which are readily obtainable indicate that unrestrained forest destruction upon these mountain sides menaces the destinies of at least fifteen states, directly affects the prosperity of many others; and

**WHEREAS**, among the results of this forest destruction are

**Floods upon the rivers**, which are already estimated to cost the nation \$100,000,000 each year and are constantly becoming more disastrous;

**Loss of soil** valued at a billion dollars a year and amounting to at least a billion tons which fills up and destroys storage reservoirs and navigable rivers and chokes harbors along nearly the entire eastern and southern coast line of the Country—and which will be rapidly augmented as cutting of timber goes higher on the mountains;

**Extinction of the nation's supply of hardwood** together with the great industries dependent upon it;

**Increased cost of most building materials** which places burdensome additional tax upon every property owner and rent payer in the United States;

**Loss of agricultural production** by the destruction of soil fertility;

**Destruction of recreation places** required for the health and enjoyment of the people;

**Devastation of national domain** thousands of square miles of which are being rendered wholly unfit for habitation or any other use;

**Failure of navigation and water power** not only by the floods of springtime but by the ever increasing severity of midsummer draughts which are destroying or discouraging navigation on scores of rivers and annihilating the possibilities of future water power for industries now producing nearly \$500,000,000 a year; and

**WHEREAS**, in many other ways appalling loss and irreparable disaster is being wrought upon many of the most prosperous sections of the country—some of these in states far removed from the sources of the trouble—and grievous burdens are being forced upon all the people; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the League of Improvement Societies in Rhode Island representing 27 societies and 3,500 members, most urgently petitions Congress to take appropriate action and respectfully requests the Senators and Representatives from Rhode Island to use their utmost endeavors to secure the passage of this necessary legislation without undue delay in order that the history of many former empires and rich domains that have been obliterated through similar causes may not be repeated in our own land; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of these resolutions be sent to each of our senators and representatives and to the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives.

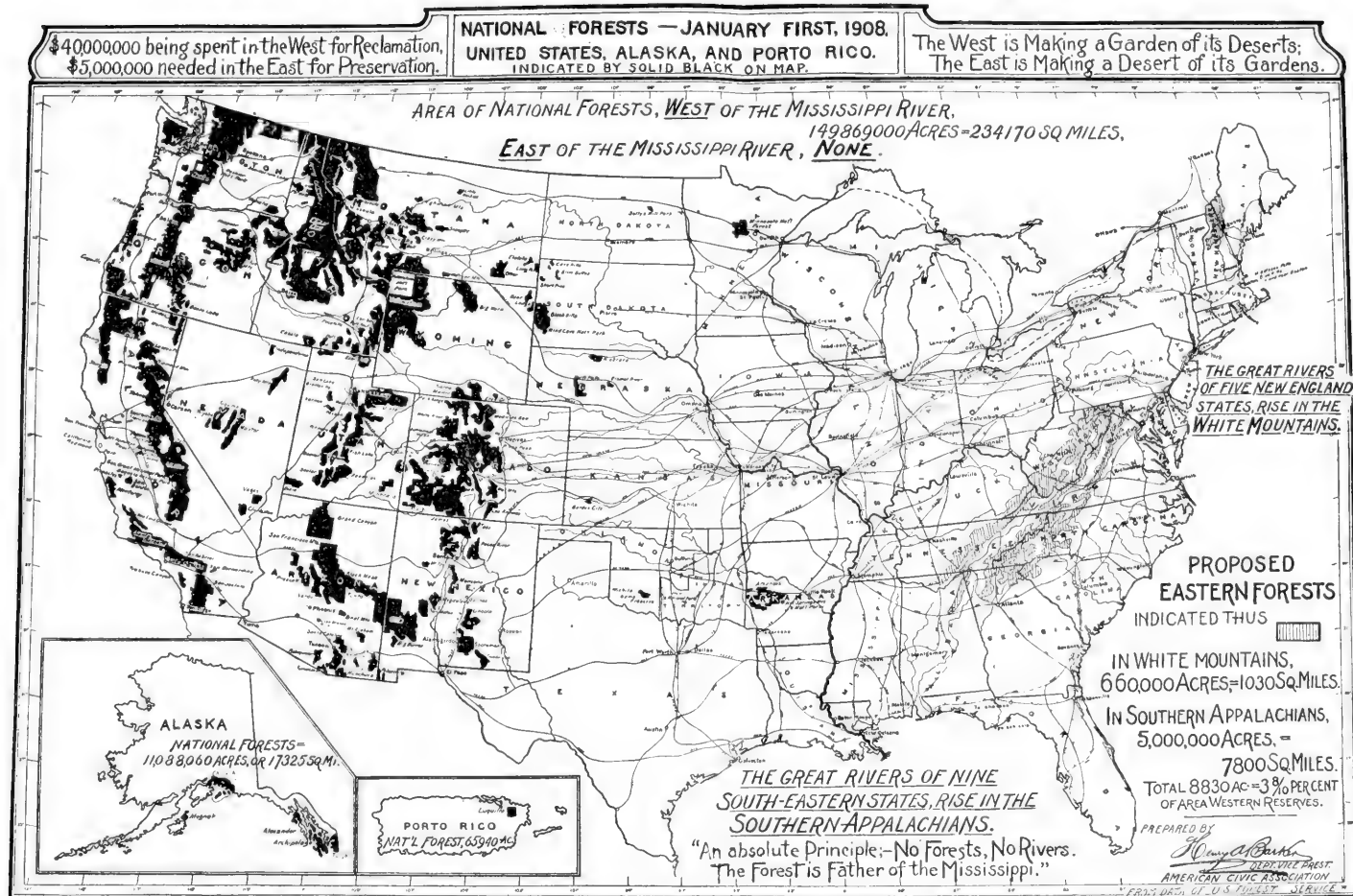
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# IS NOT THE EAST WORTH SAVING?



Why should not the resources of the East be protected? Write to Washington and ask.

Western States and Territories—population about 10,000,000—have 234,170 square miles National Forest

Eastern States—population about 80,000,000—have no National Forest protection at all



# The States Must Help

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To Encourage Private Forestry and Make Tree-Growing Worth While—To Protect the Streams that are the Arteries of the Commonwealth.

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## TAKE TAX FROM GROWING TIMBER

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*Collier's Weekly* for February 22, commenting on a bill recently introduced into the New York Senate, points out a very definite way in which the States must help the government and the people to check the menace of Forest Destruction. "This bill," it says, "introduced by Senator Cobb, Chairman of the Forest, Fish and Game Committee of the New York Senate, blazes a trail that the friends of forest preservation throughout the country will find it well to follow. The Cobb bill provides that land devoted exclusively to wood, timber, or forest products shall be assessed at a rate not higher than the rate of barren and unproductive lands in the same tax district. Owners may have their lands inspected by foresters detailed by the Forest, Fish and Game Commissioner and secure advice as to the best methods of growing trees.

This measure recognizes the fact that a really effective system of forest protection must enlist the good-will and the active cooperation of private interests. \* \* \* \* The bulk of the work must be done on commercial lines. \* \* \* \* After all, the destroyers of the forests—the lumbermen, the wood pulp men, the makers of railroad ties—are human. They do not destroy for the sake of destruction—some of them would really like to repair their own waste. Many are already cooperating with the state and national forestry services, systematically replanting their cut-over lands and treating trees as crops, to be grown as often as harvested. But the States penalize forethought. By taxing the growing trees they make it hard and often impossible for the owner to carry the crop to maturity. Paying out cash every year for taxes and taking nothing in for thirty years is calculated to chill the enthusiasm of the average business man. The proper time to tax trees is when they are cut. When the owner is about to realize on his crop the State may take such a share of the proceeds as it thinks just. But while the new forest is growing, restoring life to barren hillsides and protecting the sources of the streams that are the arteries of the commonwealth, it is a ruinous policy to force its destruction by levying fines on its existence.

The old-fashioned methods of lumbering, under which a third of the wood was wasted, have been replaced by economical processes which enable almost everything to be utilized. The National Forest Service offers its cooperation to all owners of woodlands who wish to undertake scientific replanting. The chief obstacle in the way of a general movement in this direction is the barbarous taxing system of the States "

## THE PRACTICAL PLAN

The American Paper and Pulp Association on February 7, 1908, adopted resolutions declaring that "the public should encourage the preservation of the forests by the owners by sharing with them the burden entailed thereby, more particularly in the following manner: (1) by reducing taxation to a minimum, so as to encourage conservative cutting, (2) by applying the taxes received from wild lands to their protection from fire and to reforestation of burned or already denuded districts."

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## TO MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please look into your State Forest Laws and bring the subject to the attention of your State Legislature

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